

# NASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



## MINUTES - NASSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 7.30 pm.GMT

In accordance with provision laid down by The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, during a period of encouraged 'social distancing', this meeting was held by means of internet video and telephone communication in a virtual setting, using Zoom software. All members were always able to hear proceedings and members of the public had been given opportunity to attend.

### **21/1889 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Alan Burns (chairman from 1896 ), Cllr Tony Cooper, Cllr Rebecca Downey, Cllr Paul Monks, Cllr Robert Peterson (Chairman to item 1895) , Cllr Susie Tinsley. Apologies received from Ruth Rigby. Absent: Dec Downey. Officer present: The clerk. Members of the public present.

### **21/1890 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

### **21/1891 MINUTES**

As there had been some problems in accessing the minutes by some members, it was agreed that if there were any issues with the minutes once they had been shared again.

### **21/1892 ADDRESS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**

There was none.

### **21/1893 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:**

There was an update of the inaugural Nassington Neighbourhood Plan (NNP) Advisory Committee (AC) meeting which had taken place earlier in the week. The action points arising are to start to look at the questionnaire to commence community engagement and data gathering, inviting expressions of interest, and publicising the plan in general.

The immediate task for the parish council directly from that meeting was to feed into the Vision Statement by coming up with words and phrases that will be included as the summary of what is anticipated from the plan. A vision statement should be ideally written from the perspective of the end of the plan period, drawing out what the neighbourhood plan aims to achieve by then. Ideas put forward included: affordable housing, promotion and maintenance of local businesses, views and vistas are important, community facilities, walks, supporting the school and preschool, opportunities for young people, inclusivity, farming, and environmental sustainability. Nassington has lots of places to go, which underpins the sense of community as people meet in the street a great deal. A draft vision statement will be put together for approval at the next meeting and from there taken to the advisory committee. An example, taken from other communities' plans, would be "By 2031 XYZ neighbourhood area will have housing that meets a range of needs. It will still be surrounded by beautiful countryside and meet the social and recreational needs of the inhabitants of the area whilst maintaining its rural feel and farming roots."

As the emerging white papers and government's consultation papers evidence, it is becoming increasingly clear that design codes will have a big part to play in neighbourhood and wider planning in the future. As the village has grown organically with several different types of housing, a prescriptive / rigid blanket design code would not be appropriate. Locality, the body that administers government funding for neighbourhood plans, has authorised additional funding for AECOM, the government's appointed consultants, to help appraise the village and prepare a design code.

Another priority task is identifying three main focus groups: One will focus on housing -housing mix, infill sites, affordable housing and site identification/assessments. Another will be concerned with flooding, biodiversity environmental issues, and green spaces and the third group will concentrate on community facilities, which is everything else and bringing together the built environment the natural environment. There may be some cross over.

## 21/1894 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

- 20/01575/LDE | Certificate of Lawfulness for existing development/Use: mixed use of land for the siting of caravans and moorings had been discussed at the previous meeting.
- It was **RESOLVED** that the new lights match at Fenn Close III should match all of the others that have just been selected for the rest of the village to ensure uniformity. It was further **RESOLVED** that the parish council will adopt and maintain the lights and when the roads adopted, under a Section 38<sup>i</sup> agreement.  
The green.

## 21/1895 COMMUNITY MATTERS / PROJECTS:

- Benches:
  - Public amenity in Woodnewton Road: Representation has been received from concerned residents about the removal of the bench on Woodnewton Road. The clerk was instructed to write to all residents where there is a possible siting to explain that the council has received a request for a bench along Woodnewton Road and would like to seek residents' views.
  - A request has been received for the placement of a memorial bench in memory of a lifelong resident. Replacement of the bench by the phone box at The Drove had been supported by the person who had approached the council and the parish council alike. As an aside, a suggestion was put forward that the existing bench be moved to the pocket park and a working party supported in making good the area. A tree survey would be necessary before re-siting the bench.
- Outdoor gym:
  - Plough environmental will be spraying off the area between the grass matting 'grass islands' beneath the under the pieces of play equipment and will be grinding out the tree stumps left behind. This will commence in a few weeks' time when shoots are more prevalent in the area and systemic herbicides will be effective when applied. Once the area is clearer, seed will be laid and possibly some of the turf left behind by the installers.
  - Familiarisation sessions: A trainer who is involved with the local surgery and East Northamptonshire Council 'get moving' campaign is happy to discuss familiarisations sessions. The clerk will liaise with a view to the end of April being a reasonable target, with Covid-19 lockdown restrictions having started to ease by then.  
The point was reiterated that personal fitness or class instructors can use the equipment without charge, but they must not do so at times considered to be the busiest (around school start and end times) and they must have their own insurances in place, and complete indemnify the parish council from claims.
- Highways concerns:
  - Mill Road: Trees at the southern end of Mill Road have been cut back, either side of the road, and the arisings dumped on the roadside. The highways authority is aware of this and of the damage to the kerbsides and verges along the road. The clerk will investigate the matter with highways and the relevant council officers as well at the ward member. The parish council has little power to implement anything about the matter but will do what it is able to minimise further damage.
  - Fotheringhay Road: Following a site meeting, it was agreed that highways will consider whether it will be possible to install signs warning of farm machinery as a starting point. Consideration will be given to installing gateways either end of the cluster of buildings. The point had been made at the meeting that relatively few cars were exceeding the speed limit, which had been in place for a long time.
- Emergency planning: It was felt that the community is already self-reliant when emergencies, especially flooding. The community becomes fully supportive and generally people are sensible about restricting

journeys and sharing information. The county council has a proactive flooding website full of information and assistance.

**21/1896 GOVERNANCE MATTERS:**

- May elections: The elections are proceeding on May 6<sup>th</sup> 2021. Nomination papers must be in by 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021. The clerk will have details of everyone's electoral register details and it remains a paper exercise.
- Meetings after May 7<sup>th</sup> are unclear. As things stand, the current emergency legislation allowing meeting electronically ceases on May 6<sup>th</sup>, so after that date meetings should be in person. However, it will not be lawful to do so in the normal way.
- The annual village meeting will take place at 7pm before the next parish council meeting in April

**21/1897 FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve invoices / accounts for payment or paid under delegated authority:

Goods/services	Payee	Nett	Gross
Clerks salary	S Rodger	564.39	
Pension	Nest		46.01
SSE	Electricity	158.26	188.68
neighbourhood plan	Yourlocale	5,000.00	6,000.00
Water at allotments	Wave		269.43
outdoor gym	Hags	13,734.00	16,480.80

**21/1898 OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

There is a burial board meeting coming up – roofing of the porch will be discussed.

**21/1899 NEWSLETTER / SOCIAL MEDIA / COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS.**

Annual parish meeting; outdoor gym; neighbourhood plan; elections; highways.

A request for a village business to be included on the website was agreed.

**21/1900 MATTERS TO NOTE – NOT FOR DECISION. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS / MATTERS TO BE CARRIED FORWARD**

Rockingham Forest Park to be included on the next agenda.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021 VIA ZOOM 7.30PM**

**Approved by Nassington Parish Council:**

<b>Signature of Chairman</b>		<b>Date:</b>
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<sup>i</sup> A **S38 agreement** relates to **Section 38** of the **Highways Act** 1980 to transfer a residential street to the responsibility of a highway authority.